



Butterfly Conservation Highland Branch Note of AGM 9th April 2016

Present

David Barbour
Rob Chapman
Malcolm Harvey
Janet King
Pete Moore
Tom Prescott
Hilary Rolton
Andy Scott
Mike Taylor
Mark Wynn (Chariman)

Stuart Bence
Margaret Currie
Gus Jones
Helen Mainwood
Ewan Munro
Brigid Primrose
Dot Ruston
Hilary Swift
Audrey Turner
Mark Young

Barbara Brodie
Mary Eagleson
Tessa Jones
Tony Mainwood
Brian Neath
Gwen Richards
Ron Ruston
Britt Taylor
Mary Winsch

1 – Welcome and Apologies

Mark welcomed all to the meeting, especially any new members or visitors. He reminded us that we are all part of the “family” of Butterfly Conservation members.

He asked that if anyone was inspired by the day and wished to contribute more by joining the committee they were most welcome.

Apologies

Jim Black
Bob Turner

Ray Collier

Catherine MacLeod

2 – Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the 2014 AGM had been previously circulated to the committee for amendments and thereafter they had been posted on the website for perusal/comments. The minutes were taken as read. Proposed by Tony Mainwood, seconded by Malcolm Harvey.

3 – Matters arising

None

4 – Chairman’s report

Mark noted that this was the start of his fifth year as Chairman. He then went on to say that as he is also a member of the Hampshire and Isle of White branch he gets to read their newsletter, in the April edition of which he read that their Chair was retiring after 3 years which had been “long enough”. This gave Mark cause to smile and we were reminded that Jimmy had been chair for 15 years!

The early optimism of 2015 was misplaced: May was the coldest since 1996, and the wettest in recent years. July was the wettest on record in Scotland, and August was the wettest on record and then September was one of the driest.

However, the dismal days gave Mark the time to read some enthralling books: Roy Leverton’s *Enjoying Moths*; Mathew Oates’ *In Pursuit of Butterflies* and Michael McCarthy’s *The Moth Snowstorm*. He also

noted that he is planning to read Mark Young's book. We were advised not to buy the ebook version of this and Roy's book as they contain several errors.

He noted that it was a pitiful year for Small Copper. Normally Mark gets first and second generation ones in his garden, but there was none in 2015.

His searches for Mountain Ringlet were fruitless, although they were recorded at Craig Meagaidh, he wasn't sure of the numbers. He is planning a concerted effort this year to try and realise the status of Mountain Ringlet. Ewan Munro is going to be doing research in Cumbria on the ecology of Mountain Ringlet.

Mike Taylor reports 12 thousand moth records from East Inverness-shire and Moray for 2015. It was fascinating to read in Chequered Skipper how our area's resident specialities have fared. Mark gave his and the committee's thanks to all contributors for their records.

Nationally, the data gathered for the recently published *State of the UK's Butterflies 2015* report showed declines in a good number of wider countryside butterfly species. BC is concerned about the impact of neonicotinoids and how climate change is NOT having the expected beneficial impact. As Tom Brereton reports, "As the climate warms, British butterflies, most of which are at the northerly limit of their natural range, should be thriving. A few are, but most seem scuppered by extreme weather."

Mark encouraged us to read Pete Moore's super article in Chequered Skipper to see what the branch is doing with regard to being pro-active and living up to the Charity's name. He noted, for example, a work party of 13 volunteers doing habitat management for Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Glen Orrin using some remarkable tools – tree poppers – which the branch purchased. Tom Prescott wrote in the Chequered Skipper about our peerless work in protecting one of Britain's rarest moths the New Forest Burnet, by restricting grazing. A gorse fire at Tarbet Ness this summer may have improved the area for butterflies and David Barbour is going to the site to look for caterpillar food plants. And finally another different type of example was given: the committee on behalf of our members wrote a letter of objection to a planning application in the Cairngorm National Park. Mark said he had received a letter this week stating that the application had been withdrawn from the register of applications.

Mark gave his thanks to the Committee, especially to Pete for organising the events programme, to Barbara for doing the minutes and Audrey who we would be lost without as her role as treasurer, membership secretary, webmaster. The audience gave a round of applause to show their support as well.

In closing Mark wished for a decent spring, summer and autumn, noting that a jaunty butterfly or moth lifts the spirits as we let them into our lives.

5 – Election of Committee members

No additional committee members were elected. The floor was happy for the committee to continue as it stands.

6 – Treasurer's Report

Audrey presented the financial figures (set out in Appendix 1). Our main source of income is the £6 we receive per BC membership. It should be noted that we have approximately 300 households with memberships as opposed to approx 300 individual members.

We are still receiving a small income from the sale of Atlas'

The contribution the branch makes to members day is increasing, it was hoped that this increase would not continue. A question was raised whether it was better to increase the cost to those attending (currently £10) rather than increase the cost to the branch as a whole.

Other expenditure was on the Tree poppers and future expenditure of 10% of the cost of fencing for the New Forest Burnet (the remaining 90% from Landfill). Tom is awaiting quotes.

The branch was asked to let the committee know if they had ideas on what else we should be spending our surplus money on.

The Treasurer's report was approved by Tony Maninwood, and seconded by Stuart Bence

AOCB

Tom Prescott reported that he had had a very productive meeting with Landmark (the forest adventure park at Carrbridge) who are in the process of getting the necessary permissions to open a butterfly house. Tom said they were keen to work with BC and suggested we could have a BC display, use the venue to host BC events, eg moth mornings, help in the training of the staff for the butterfly house so they know more about our local Lepidoptera and we could have a Branch behind the scenes visit. Landmark would also become BC corporate members.

Date and Time of Next AGM

10am, 8th April 2017

After the formal part of the day was closed we were treated to 4 excellent talks/presentations

Tom Prescott – Malawi

David Barbour – The Spread of Comma & Ringlet Butterflies in the Highland Branch area

Pete Moore – Moth Highlights of 2015

Mark Young – Some Informal Memories of Mothing since the 1960s

Appendix 1

		Income	
2014-2015			2015-2016
£4,154.55		Total Brought Forward	£4,470.17
£1,494.00	BC subscriptions		£1,684.00
£62.60	Atlas Sales		£33.80
	Paid in error – should have gone to other branch		£12.40
£361.48	SNH Grants - Under recorded areas		
£500.00	RSPB Grant - Dark Bordered Beauty Surveys		£500.00
£4,787.88	Burnet Symposium income		
£5.04	Vat from Head Office		
	Repayment of Bank Charges by Head Office		£6.57
£7,228.33		Total Income For Year	£2236.77
£11,382.88			£6706.94

2014-2015	Expenditure	2015-2016
£810.29	Newsletter & News-sheet costs	£884.50
	AGM Notices/Room Hire	£18.00
£210.24	Support Costs	£7.89
£94.50	MapMate licences	£94.50
£33.84	Insurance	£33.84
£361.48	Under recorded area expenses	£51.08
£352.99	RSPB DBB Survey expenses	£403.02
£3,325.76	Burnet Symposium Costs	
£57.98	Membership Costs (Postage)	£403.90
£157.30	Contribution to Members Day & Recorders Gathering	£438.52
£500.00	Contribution to printing Butterfly & Moth Leaflets	
£986.33	Payment of previous years creditors	£300.22
	Field Equipment	£508.00
	Reclaimed incorrect payment	£12.40
	Contribution to Head Office projects (Bog Squad)	£200.00
£6,912.71	Total Expenditure For Year	£3,355.87
£4,470.17	Total Carried Forward	£3,351.07
£11,382.88		£6,706.94

Balances Carried Forward

Restricted Funds - DBB	£1036.07
Designated Funds - Burnet	£1462.12
Unrestricted Funds	£852.88
Total	£3,351.07

Fund Name	Dark Bordered Beauty Survey Expenses	Burnet Symposium
Opening Balance	£939.09	£1,462.12
Income	£500.00	
Expenditure	£403.02	
Balance Forward	£1,036.07	£1,462.12

